FD-302 (Rev. 1-25-60)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

CD-75

Date November 30, 1963

Sergeant HORACE J. AUSTIN, Intelligence Unit, New Orleans Police Department, advised that on August 9, 1963, he was advised by Major PRESLEY J. TROSCLAIR, JR., Intelligence Unit Commander, that he had received a telephone call from Lieutenant WILLIAM GAILLOT of the First District Police Station, that they had in custody one LEE HARVEY OSWALD who had been picked up that day for distributing Fair Play for Cuba Committee leaflets. Major TROSCLAIR instructed that AUSTIN and Patrolman WARREN ROBERTS, assigned to the same unit, interview OSWALD at the First District.

AUSTIN related that he and ROBERTS went to the First District and determined that three Cubans had been arrested with OSWALD as they were involved in a disturbance on Canal Street. These Cubans were CELSO MACARIO HERNANDEZ, CARLOS JOSE BRINGUIER, and MIGUEL MARIANO CRUZ. AUSTIN said that he conducted the interviews of BRINGUIER and CRUZ, and ROBERTS conducted the detailed interviews of OSWALD and HERNANDEZ. At the completion of these interviews AUSTIN related that he and ROBERTS got together and prepared a memorandum setting forth the details of these interviews. This memorandum was dated August 12, 1963, and is set forth in its entirety hereinafter.

"DEPARTMENT OF POLICE

"INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

"TO : Major Presly J.Trosclair Jr. DATE August 12,1963

"FROM : Sgt. Horace J. Austin & Patn. Warren Roberts

"SUBJECT: Interview of four male subjects at the First District Police Station, on Friday, August 9, 1963, after their arrest from Canal Street.

On 11/29/63 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 89-69

by SA JOHN LESTER QUIGLEY :sms Date dictated 11/30/63

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

"Sir:

"The following information is respectfully reported relative to the interview of four arrested subjects in the First District Police Station, beginning at about 4:45 P.M., Friday, August 9, 1963. One of the four subjects, identified as Lee Harvey Oswald, WM, age 23, residing 4907 Magazine Street, had allegedly been distributing communist literature on Canal Street, and three Cubans, the other three arrested subjects, had become involved in an altercation with Oswald, which resulted in the arrest of the four subjects.

"Lee Harvey Oswald furnished the following information when interviewed.

"He is a member of The Fair Play for Cuba Committee, whose address is 799 Broadway, New York 3, N. Y., telephone OR4-8295. Oswald had in his possession a National Membership card issuon on 5/28/63, and the presidents name on this card was "V. T. Lee." Oswald had also a local membership card dated 6/6/63 (N.O. Chapter of the FPFCC), and the president of the local chapter, whose name was on the card was "A. Hidell."
Oswald presented his Social Security Card, which did not bear his signature, and the number of this card was 433-54-3937.
Oswald presented his U. S. Marine Corp. discharge card (Honorable) bearing service number 1653230, and date of active duty from 24 Oct 1956 to 11 Sept. 1959.

"Oswald stated he was born in New Orleans on October 18, 1939, that he is about 5'9" tall, about 140 lbs., and is a mechanic by trade. He stated he did mechanic work in the Marine Corps, and that he is presently unemployed and has been so about three weeks. Before he was laid-off,

Oswald was not "a mechanic by trade" and he did not do "mechanical work" in the Marine Corps. He was a radarman, possessed of codes and other intelligence of the highest security. He had a higher security clearance than most servicemen, was one of the few in his outfit, all of whose members held "confidential" clearance, to hold this higher status.

Oswald stated, he worked at the Louisiana Coffee Company for about three months, and before that he had worked at Fort Worth, Texas, at a sheetmetal place. Oswald stated he worked in Fort Worth at the sheetmetal place for several months, but was very evasive in answering any further questions of employment prior to that time.

"Oswald stated that he lives with his wife, whose maiden name was Marina Pross, WF, age 21. They were married in Fort Worth, have one child seventeen months of age, and reside presently at 4907 Magazine Street, lower center, New Orleans.

"Oswald stated that he has two brothers, who reside, like his mother, in Fort Worth, Texas. He stated that his father, John Lee Oswald, is deceased.
Oswald's mother: Margarette Oswald, resides by herself in Fort Worth, Texas.
Oswald's brothers: Robert Oswald, WM, age 27,
John Oswald, WM, age 32,

"Oswald stated he had talked to Major Trosclair about getting a permit for F.P.F.C.C. and the Major advised him to consult his attorney. Oswald said he never did go and see about a permit at city hall.

"Oswald further stated the Cubans came up to him where he was giving out the leaflets and began to tear them up and throw them in the street. Oswald stated that they started to yell that he was a communist and about that time the officers from the First Disteict came up and a crowd had gathered. Oswald stated he joined the Fair Play for Cuba Committee when he found a leaflet on the street one day and read what was on it, and sent $5.00 to the address which was in New York city and after

Each of the New Orleans police who interviewed Oswald gave a different wrong maiden name for Marina Oswald, each attributing it to the husband. Oswald's account of the fracas with Bringuier as here represented is accurate. If the police were motivated by considerations of regular police work and not by political considerations, the charges against Oswald, who proclaimed his guilt, would have been dropped, for he did not start the fight and, in fact, by Bringuier's own sworn word, stood with his hands crossed in front and did not resist the attack.

a brief period of time he was sent material through the mail and contacted locally, and he started to attend the meetings, which he stated were held in each others homes. Oswald stated they, the members, get together and talk about how it would be to visit Cuba, life in Cuba, etc..

"Oswald denied the organization was communist, or a communist front, when asked by Captain James Arnold, Commanding Officer of the First Police District, who came in during the interview, but Oswald had in his possession and was carrying a piece of cardboard with "VIVA VIVA Fidel" painted on it and the paraphernalia he was handing out was pasted on this cardboard also. Oswald stated he has never been to Cuba, and it appeared as though he is being used by these people and is very uniformed and knows very little about this organization that he belongs to and its ultimate purpose or goal. Oswald stated that the people that attend these informal meetings are working class people, such as clerical, trades, etc..

"The three Cubans were interviewed and furnished the following information:

"#1. Celso Macario Hernandez, WM, age 47, D.O.B. 1/8/16, Social Security Number 265-76-8756

"Hernandez stated he came to the United States via Miami, Florida, on October 9, 1962, with his family and he was a traveling book salesman in Cuba. He came to New Orleans on January 8, 1963 and resides at 519 Adele Street, New Orleans with his family. He has not had

This account of the meetings of the non-existent New Orleans Fair Play for Cuba Committee is, of course, fiction. The real reason that Oswald knew "very little about this organization" seems never to have occurred to the police. It was not that the FPCC was "using" him, obviously, but that in New Orleans it did not exist.

any employment except for a few days of manual labor in Miami, Florida, and is presently on relief or welfare.

"The names of the family of Celso M. Hernandez are as follows:
Wife: Maria De La Caridad Valero, WF, age 41 (Maiden name)
Daughter: Maria De Los Angles, WF, age 14
Son: Nicholas Pablo, WM, 11
Daughter: Teresita, WF, age 6

"Hernandez stated he saw Oswald at approximately 1:30 P.M., August 9, 1963, passing out communist literature and he went and got his friends at 107 Decatur Street and at first they were unable to locate this subject Oswald when they got on the Canal Street streetcar, and they rode to Jefferson Davis Avenue and not being able to locate Oswald they returned to 107 Decatur Street, the Casa Roca retail clothing store. They remained there until someone came in and told them where Oswald was and they then proceeded to that location, where the three of them were carrying the sign described in formation relative to Carlos Bringuier in this memo. They then began to argue with Oswald and a crowd gathered and they were all (four) arrested by the police.

"#2. Carlos Jose Bringuier, age 29, D.O.B. 6/22/34, 5'8", 150 lbs., residing 501 Adele Street, residing this address about three months, born in Havana, Cuba.

"Bringuier stated he is manager of the Casa Roca retail clothing store, located 107 Decatur Street, New Orleans. He began his

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For some reason not clear to those whose minds work in more normal ways, Bringuier preferred describing himself as an employee of the store of which he was owner in partnership with his brother-in-law. Although describing himself as a lawyer and former clerk of the criminal court in Havana under Castro and styling himself "doctor", Bringuier filed a frivolous "defamation" suit against me, waiting until after I left New Orleans to do so, although I had been alerted to his intentions before I went there. Testimony before an official body is privileged, immune to private suit. Among the testimony Bringuier claimed to be defamatory is his own, similar to what he told the police at the time of his altercation with Oswald. The import of his complaint is that people may patronize a store in which he works, whereas they will not knowing he owns it.

employment about October 1, 1962.

"Bringuier previously residing at 2046 Pelopidas Street. He lives with his wife and four children.
Wife: Maria Del Carmen (Bearce), WF, age 25
Born in Argentina, Buenos Aires
Married in Buenos Aires, April 14, 1956
Entered U. S. February 8, 1961, at Miami, Florida, by plane.
Wife entered U. S. in Miami in May, 1961.
Ages of children are 6, 5, 3 and 2.

Julio and Viconta Bringuier, mother and father, reside at 1769 S. W. 17th. Street, Miamai, Florida, Bringuier stated.
Julio was born in 1895 in Remedios, Cuba, entered the U. S. after invasion, believed by Bringuier to be in May of 1961.
Viconta was born in 1894 in Moron, Cuba, and entered the U. S. with Julio.

Carlos Bringuier gave the following names of his brothers and sisters:

"Julio Enriquè Bringuier, (brother), age 41, born Moron, Cuba, now residing 1769 SW. 17th. Street, Miami, entered the U. S. at end of 1961.
"Maria Gertrudis (Pelaez) age 42, (sister), resides 2224 Mendez Street, married to Rolando Pelaez, who also works at the Casa Roca clothing store, 107 Decatur Street, New Orleans.
"Juan Feliepe Bringuier, age 35, (brother), born in Cuba, entered the U. S. December 24, 1962, resides in New York City, is unmarried.
"Maria Del Carmen (Medina), age 39, (sister), married to Jorge Medina, age 41, who is in Cuba. Maria Del Carmen lives in Iberville project in New Orleans, believed to be on Iberville Street. Jorge Medina was working in Criminal Court in Havana, went crazy.

"Carlos Jose Bringuier also gave the following information relating to himself.

His social security number 435-64-3717,

His selective service number 16 42 34 462, classified 5-A, local board #42, New Orleans, dated August 24, 1961

Possesses Louisiana drivers license number 1585883, date of issue 2/26/62, address on license 4525 Duplessis Street.

Possesses Immigrant Resident card #A 12 546 223, dated 2/8/61

"Bringuier further stated that he is a local delegate of the CUBAN STUDENT DIRECTORATE, in City of New Orleans, appointed by one Jose Antonio Lanuza, Secretary, American Affairs, Cuban Student Directorate, P.O. Box 805, Main Post Office, Miami, Florida, telephone Franklin 3-1476.

"Bringuier stated that his first job in New Orleans was with the California Redwood Produce Co., on S. Peters Street, owned by Mr. L. C. Levy. Bringuier stated he worked here two days.

"Bringuier then worked at Mac's Discount House, located at 714 Canal Street, for about one year, beginning April 1, 1961.

"Bringuier then became a self employed pedler in April of 1962 with his brother-in-law, Rolando Polaez. They bought clothing and radios wholesale and went aboard ships to sell same. Bringuier stated that he had a Port Security Card.

"Bringuier then stated that on October 1, 1962, he opened the Casa Roca clothing store, 107 Decatur Street, and has been working here until this date.

"Bringuier stated that he keeps the sign, in the Cuban's possession at the time of arrest this date, in his store. This sign measures about 3 feet by 4 feet, with a picture of the Statue of Liberty, hand with dagger on end of long chain, and Cuba ringed by two links of the chain. The sign reads "Danger! Only 90 miles from U.S.A., Cuba lies in chains!"

"Bringuier stated that the sign was given to him by Arnesto Rodriguez, age in his 30's, who resided at 1208 St. Charles Street in New Orleans, at the time Arturo Frondizi came to New Orleans in January or February of 1962. Bringuier believes Frondizi is a communist, and he has two brothers in Argentina who are Communists.

"Bringuier further stated that he came to New Orleans right from Miami, Florida, by Greyhound bus, arriving in New Orleans on February 18, 1961.

"#3. Miguel Mariano Cruz, age 18, D.O.B. 9/27/44, residing 2526 Mazant Street, New Orleans, unmarried, lives with mother, father and three sisters.

Mother: Victoriana (Enriquez) Cruz, age 56
Father: Claudio Cruz, age 64, unemployed, on Welfare.
Sisters: Hordensia Maria Cruz, age 26, a student at Capello Beauty Schoold, 1509 St. Charles Avenue.
Ina Josefa Cruz, age 25, stays at home.
Maria Teresa Cruz, age 19, works at a petroleum company at night.

Bringuier has his own definition of "Communist". It seems to coincide with that of the part of the radical right whose darling he is and amounts to anyone he does not like or who does not see through the special tinted glasses with which he regards the rest of the world. Here he calls the duly elected President of Argentina, overthrown by a military coup, a "Communist".

"Miguel Mariano Cruz stated that he is unemployed and is a student Nichols High School, 11th. grade, in New Orleans.

"Miguel Cruz presented his Selective Service Card, #16 145 44 483, classified 1-A, dated 5/27/61, Local Board #145, Orleans Parish., also his Immigrant resident card #A 12 920 831, bearing name "Miguel Mariano Cruz Enriquez".

"Miguel Cruz stated that he entered the U.S. in San Juan, Puerto Rico, on December 5, 1962, went to Miami, Florida, right away, stayed for two days, in Plaza Hotel, and left Miami and came right to New Orleans, arriving December 12, 1962. He stated that his parents and three sisters entered the U. S. on the same date.

"When asked about other relations, Miguel Cruz named the following brothers.
Paul Cruz, age 32, address unknown, in New Orleans, married, wife's name "Olga". Has two children, and is employed as a waiter at the Royal Orleans Hotel.

Claudio Cruz, age 33, residing 2569 Congress Street, wife's name "Angela" no children, employed as Bus Boy at the Royal Orleans Hotel.

Enrique Cruz, age 23, residing 2601 Bartholomew Street, wife's name "Olga", no children, is unemployed and on Welfare.

"The interview of the above four arrested subjects by Sgt. Austin and Patn. Roberts was

concluded at approximately 6:00 P.M., same date, August 9, 1963."

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Sergeant AUSTIN commented that after all the interviews were completed, he and ROBERTS again spoke to OSWALD briefly about whether or not OSWALD considered himself to be a communist. OSWALD insisted that he was not. At no time to his knowledge did OSWALD state that he was being paid $25.00 for the distribution of Fair Play for Cuba literature nor was he being paid by anyone any amount of money for the passing out of this material.